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Bayonet forward

Combined Task Force Chamberlain Builds Bridge in Afghanistan

The Bailey Bridge was invented by Donald Coleman Bailey, an English civil engineer. In 1941, Bailey gave his sketch of the bridge to the British War Office. It is emplaced by erecting bridge panels, which measure ten feet by five feet a piece that are connected together, a center truss weighing in at five-hundred and seventy seven pounds on shore and pushing the bridge sections on rollers across the gap and into place. Jacks are used to remove the rollers and set the bridge onto its final bearing plates.

Such a bridge has not been built since World War II, making it one of the largest of its kind. The construction of this bridge from start to finish was a multinational endeavor. Over three hundred thousand pounds of bridge parts were flown from Loverno, Italy to Bagram Air Field (BAF), Afghanistan using C-17 aircraft. These parts were then loaded into local national trucks for transportation to the awaiti

ing bridge construction team in Jalalabad Air Field (JAF).

The bridge was moved over ground in two separate movements with an escort team headed by SSG Patrick Polky and SSG Anthony Romano of the 240th Engineer Group.

The bridge parts were transported nearly two hundred kilometers east of Bagram Air Field (BAF) to the construction team in Jalalabad Air Field (JAF) made up of elements of Alpha Company and Charlie Company of the 27th Engineer Battalion and a platoon of Engineers from the Afghan National Army (ANA). The ANA Engineers are from the 201st Corps out of Naray, Afghanistan and were accompanied by their Embedded Training Team from TF Phoenix.

Excerpt from article written by 1LT Norman Stickney, from the S3 section and continued on page 3.



Children run across the newly opened Bailey Bridge that was completed and launched by TF 27 Engineers along with the help of the 201st Corps Afghan National Army



Forward Operating Base Salerno

So, you might be wondering where is FOB Salerno and what is it like? Salerno is situated on a peninsula of land on the eastern border of Afghanistan within an area known as the Khwest Bowl, being surrounded by mountains. To the north, east, and south is Pakistan. Salerno, is a

great place to be stationed. Unlike Bagram, Salerno is much smaller, does not have paved roads, does not have street lights, does not have jet aircraft, and does not have the volume of traffic or the magnitude of personnel, noise and congestion.

Article by LTC Duehring continued on pg 5



CTF Chamberlain Commander Greets families back in Maine

is to make sure that the engineer units have what they need to carry out their construction projects and to clear roads of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED's) and road damage. The Soldiers of the 240th, including your Soldier, have risen to the occasion and developed a strong working relationship with Division, our Battalions, our Polish and Korean Coalition Partners. I am very proud of their accomplishments, their abilities, and their attitudes as we serve the Nation here in this country so far from home.

I am also proud of you families and the sacrifices you have made while your soldier is deployed. I know that physically, emotionally, and spiritually this has been a difficult time for many of you. But despite those hard-

ships you have continued to provide unwavering encouragement to your Soldier. Soldiers are not machines, and they cannot operate effectively if they do not have the support of those whom they love the most. Do not underestimate the impact of your support for your Soldier, whether you express it through encouraging words, cards and letters, pictures from home, expressions of pride and appreciation, or just by showing that you are 'hanging in there' until they return. For our part we will remain alert and vigilant as we march on into October, and will continue to serve with pride in Afghanistan.

Article by LTC Les Swartz, CTF Chamberlain Commander



To the Families of the 240th Engineer Group, Hello from Afghanistan. We are now at the halfway point in our mission, but are well beyond halfway when we add in the two months of training at Atterbury. Your Soldiers are doing an exceptional job here, and have formed into a unit that works together as a team to accomplish the many varied missions we are assigned. Our primary focus

HHC Commander Reports



HHC Commander, CPT Jarrod Crockett with SGT Shawn Hayden at 9/11 ceremony.

During the month of September, Headquarters Company (HHC) commemorated the events of 9/11 by participating in a ceremony on BAF at which Combined Forces Command for Afghanistan, Commander LTG Eikenberry addressed both the significance of the events of that fateful day as well as his

vision for deterring those acts in the future. To the left is the Company Guideon Bearer, SGT Shawn Hayden, and the Company Commander, CPT Jarrod Crockett standing tall while listening to the powerful message of the LTG Eikenberry.

The most significant operation of the month for HHC revolved around the armed escort and transport to Kabul of a Polish two star General (the equivalent of an American Major General) who will be assuming the role of Deputy ISAF Commander for Afghanistan. Also present was a Polish one star General (the equivalent of an American Brigadier General) and several Polish VIPs. The mission was run as a combined operation with the Polish Special Military Police and executed flawlessly earning the laudatory comments of both Generals.



HHC 240th Company Commander, CPT Jarrod Crockett with ISAF Deputy Commander for Afghanistan, and Polish CPL Koplín.

Several of the Polish soldiers were gunners and drivers of American vehicles during the mission. Truly a Combined Task Force, mission complete!

Article by HHC 240th Company Commander, CPT Jarrod Crockett



S-4 Section

Much has happened, and many experiences have brought a wealth of knowledge to our section in these months. We continue to carry on with our main mission of sustaining our subordinate Battalion's and Coalition forces throughout RC East and on Bagram Air Base here in Afghanistan with both soldier sustaining and civilian construction

needs. It is this sections conviction to make a continued effort in providing for the future of the Afghan people.

We brought with us a strong section from Maine that has proven itself to be the grease on the axles of logistics for engineer operations. Among us are LTC Richards, SFC Grimshaw, SGT Pelletier, SPC Jones, and myself.

Though we're at the half way point we have much ahead of us before we journey home.

We look to this busy future with much optimism and enthusiasm. It is our continued goal to continually exceed the standards in logistics.

Article by MSG Darrell A. Hanning, CTF Chamberlain Senior Supply Sergeant





CTF Chamberlain S3 Section OIC LTC Jeffrey Morton in front of a Chinook helicopter

It all began on January 22nd 2006 with our mobilization order effective date, when soldiers from all over the State were thrown together to become the most amazing S-3 Section anyone could ever dream of. Talk about a “Dream Team”, well, we got one for ya. We ended up with NCOs and Officers from all over, including a prior Battalion Commander, Company Commander, and First Sergeant to help us form an elite group ready for anything, but still not completely sure of what to expect. The following is a quick rundown of who we are, and what we’ve become;

LTC Morton (aka Uncle Morty), our nearly famous S-3. He is seen periodically covered with sweat either from a morning 8 mile run, or from chasing answers at the Division JOC (Joint Operations Center). His job consists of making sure all of the missions within the Task Force are being executed in accordance with (IAW) the Commander’s intent. Shown in the picture getting ready for a flight to an outlying FOB to make sure things are going according to plan there as well.



MAJ Darveau (aka, Young Gunner). He is assigned as the Assistant to the S-3. This means that any time the S-3 is away he has to have all the answers, or be very good at MSU (Making ummm Stuff Up). He’s also the new “go to guy”

when there’s a briefing that no one else wants to do. (He thought being a Field Grade Officer would have certain advantages, but he didn’t realize that briefing the CUB (Commander’s Update Brief) to the Two Star was part of it.)



LTC Branscom (DFE Environmental Guru). Hardly a day goes by when we don’t get questioned about the Commander’s SITREP, making sure the battle bridge didn’t make a mistake. (ie., “On Tuesday you reported completing 3493 meters of road, and Wednesday only 3495 meters”, c’mon now, only two meters in one day??”) He was assigned a very difficult position as the LNO (Liaison Officer) at the Division JOC. Constantly taking beatings from the folks there on our behalf, and doing so with pride.



MAJ Tatian (aka, “Frago Man”). He’s still trying to get into the Guinness Book of World Records by publishing more Fragos, than any other Brigade Level Headquarters. It’s gonna be close, but by the end of this tour he should at least be lined up for an opportunity to write fragos for a Division somewhere. For those of you back home, a Frago is a Fragmentary Order.



1LT Campbell (The Night Battle Captain). She holds down the fort during the night time and provides the morning update brief to the staff. In her “spare time” she and her night co-worker keep the TOC cleaner than any Army TOC ever seen. They also designed and created the sign board we see each day as we enter the TOC. A Great job to be proud of for years to come. Now to get that sign into a duffle bag so we can take it home.

S3 Section



Our newest addition to the Battle Bridge is 1LT Morin, coming to us from Hermon, Maine. Although he was the fastest person in CTF Chamberlain to get promoted and get coined (less than 1 week –

What’s up with that?), he is fitting right in and doing a great job along with the rest of our dedicated bridge staff.



1LT Stickney (Norm, or far from....). The absolute most experienced LT we have, at throwing the Nerf football around in the TOC. (A tough job, but.....) He works as the Battle Captain during whichever shift we assign him to for that particular day,

and is also working as the IO (Information-Operations) Officer within the CTF. This is a critical mission now more than ever, so we can make sure the stories about the good things we’re doing also get noticed throughout the country, all the Task Forces, and for the folks back home.

The heart of our existence is the Chamberlain Battle Bridge. All operations within the Combined Task Force are monitored from here. All briefings stem from here. All communications come through here. If there is anything going on anywhere in the theater anytime of day or night, this is the place to find out what it is. Computer terminals, plasma screens, radios and telephones, technology galore! It looks like the bridge on Star Trek for those of you trying to visualize it. This is definitely where it all happens and where we “Take care of business” everyday, 24/7. Although the occasional Nerf football is thrown or a ball game or AFN movie is running on the TV in the background during slow times, this is where the rubber meets the road. It might not be “Space-The Final Frontier”, but it is the closest thing to it here in Afghanistan.

Continued on page 4



SGM Harris leans back and relaxes in the midst of a busy day as the S-3 NCOIC.

SGM Harris (aka.... Well let's leave that alone). The Operations NCO for the Group. Most days are spent like is shown in the picture, just trying to relax, and make sure the coffee is ready. In coming here, he was thinking how nice it would be to not have to deal with USR's and Readiness Briefings, and end up now doing them not on a quarterly basis, but monthly instead. Arrrrrgggghhhhh!



MSG Moore (Prior First Sergeant for C/262). He is assigned as another of the Division level LNOs, who constantly deals with the fallout from the issues we create here in the Group TOC. We apologize, but that's

the way it goes, and it will just teach you for being a Yankee Fan.



MSG Wiley (aka "snake") This guy deployed to Vietnam, Iraq and now Afghanistan, which says a lot for him. (Positive or negative, is up to you). He is now the third LNO who works at the Division JOC. He

worked with us here at the Group TOC as well, and was an integral part of making sure people kept their outlook "In Box" cleaned out, because if you didn't he wouldn't hesitate to wake you at the wee hours of the night to remind you to do so. Another great addition and we are a much better section because he is with us.

S-3 Section (Continued)



Battle NCO and doing a great job for us.

SSG Shannon (Commo, Intelligence, and Battle NCO). He has been assigned to all three positions, either because he can't keep a job, or because he is just that good. We feel it's the latter for sure. He is now working



SSG Rogers (Battle NCO extraordinaire).

He is the morning Battle NCO on the Bridge, and we normally have to go look to make sure he's here, because he is so quiet and reserved. We're

working on that to try and get him to come out of his shell. He is doing a great job working in the TOC and with his other assignments since arriving here in theater. He represented the CTF in the SGT Audie Murphy Board competition in April, and continues to excel. We have been trying to count the number of ways the "F" word can be used and SSG Rogers is assisting with that research.



SGT Larrabee (aka, Mike Bravo, and numerous others). She is the Air Operations NCO for the CTF. She assists two subordinate Airborne!!! Battalions in getting their soldiers moved from one

end of the Country to the other. In the picture she is seen reading the NCO Creed during her recent promotion to Sergeant. Congratulations are definitely in order

SGT Larrabee is often seen in her "Whip" to make sure soldiers and equipment are sent out to one of the outlying FOBs, and she sometimes uses the same vehicle to tool around to the Bazaar and other locations to get her shopping trips in.



SPC Marthia (Prior Marine Corps). Works in the TOC doing anything and everything for us. He stayed with us for the most part, and then was sent to the Division

JOC to work in a similar capacity to LTC Branscom. He always does a great job in either location. We're still trying to figure out why anyone would want a dog bad enough to spend so much money on it though. He was sent home on emergency leave, and we all hope he is doing well.



MAJ Ouellette (aka, "Smiley"). He is always smiling, and certainly there is nothing wrong with that, it just keeps us wondering what he is thinking about.. MAJ

Ouellette is the "king" of the Battle Bridge. Constantly working through ways to make things better, and improve what we do and how we do it.

With our mid tour date now behind us, we must say good bye to the new friendships we have made during this deployment. Both the 100th Engineer Battalion from Korea and the Polish Engineers are conducting transfer of authority ceremonies with their follow on units. Members of CTF Chamberlain take a moment to pose with 1LT Chung of the ROK Army. 1LT Chung acted as an LNO for his unit and was a great source of information. He will be missed by all of us in the CTF Chamberlain TOC.



Article written by 1LT Stickney an S-3 Battle Captain

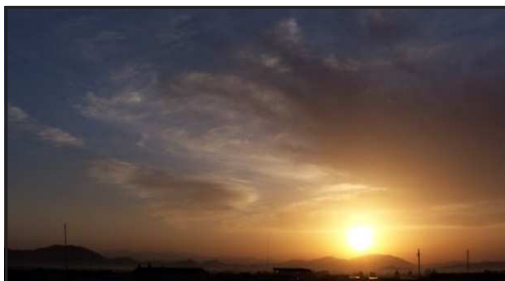


Report from FOB Salerno



LTC David Duehring is the Officer In Charge at the Engineer TAC in Salerno

Within days after arriving in Afghanistan 1LT Darrell Davis, SGT Scott Cyr, and I were assigned to FOB Salerno to assume the duties at the "TAC". Our primary purpose is to maintain liaison with the Infantry to keep them apprised of CTF Chamberlain Engineer activities within their Area of Operations (AO). Additionally, 1LT Davis works with subordinate Engineer units in the area to ensure the projects of CTF Chamberlain are constructed to the standards established by the Construction Management Section (CMS) at the CTF Chamberlain Headquarters in Bagram. You might say he is a "Field Representative" of the CMS. To ensure our small "TAC" stays operational, SGT Cyr performs the duties as the TAC Operations Sergeant. However, his duties also include keeping our inventory of equipment, maintaining liaison with the Information Management Office to ensure our communications and computer systems remain operational, coordinating postal deliveries, coordinating TAC personnel moving out from Salerno by aircraft, and coordinating with a variety of support organizations on the FOB. Basically, SGT Cyr is a "Jack of all Trades" who has learned all these new skills "on the job" since arriving. You remember Corporal "Radar" O'Riley from the TV series "MASH" and how he kept things running smoothly for the unit? Well, SGT Cyr is the TAC's Corporal O'Riley! We are so grateful to have him on our team! Instead of a long paved runway like Bagram,



Beautiful sunset over FOB Salerno

Salerno has a gravel airstrip. In spite of its size, Salerno has many features that provide for the soldiers' well being such as a new fitness center located in a large clamshell structure, an outdoor basketball court, volleyball courts, and horse shoe pits. Salerno also has a small PX, a barbershop, AAFES gift shops, Green Bean Coffee house, Subway, Education Center, small movie cinema, chapel, and a Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) facility with a sign out front that says "Hard Rock Café, Salerno". Here our soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines can use computers and telephones as well as check-out videos.

When the sun sets the FOB becomes a whole different world in that we live in black-out conditions, meaning no lights outside. There are times when there is very little illumination from the stars and moon that you can not even see your hand in front of your face. Therefore, a small flashlight with a red, blue, or green lens is standard equipment after dark to find your way around. Surprising after a while how you memorize your routes which make it possible to navigate about even without a light. The biggest thing to watch out for is not to bump into someone else not using a light. But, when we do have the moon and stars shining, you can walk about as if it were daylight. With no cities with lights to brighten the night sky, the moon and stars take on a clarity and brilliance like no place I have ever seen before. It is like you can just reach out with your hand and pick a star from the firmament.

For those of us at Salerno, it has become our home away from home. We came here not knowing anyone but, within a short time we became acquainted with others that are assigned here. It reminds me of a small Maine village where you soon get the opportunity to meet many new friends and can't cross the FOB without seeing many familiar faces.

At times, I can lose myself here as I try to take in and enjoy this part of the world and its natural beauty. I personally am a morning person who enjoys completing a route around the FOB each morning before the sun has risen over the mountains of Pakistan to our east. It is usually very quiet and peaceful with only soldiers going out on early morning missions to break the silence. As I work my way around the perimeter I pass Aziz's Bakery which is a Local National bakery serving food native to the area. As I continue along my normal route as dawn approaches, I can begin to see the foothills of the Kwest Bowl that surround us that make way for the mountains that form a scenic backdrop with snow covered peaks in the higher elevations. Continuing along we have several fruit orchards on the FOB which I am almost guaranteed to see a few rabbits as I pass. We also have several varieties of cedar, pine, and sycamore trees that are home to many types of birds. As the sun begins to rise over the mountain

peaks, you can hear the crow of a rooster in the distance as well as the calling of the crows (smaller than ones in the states and having what looks like a gray cape around their necks and draped across their backs). We also have morning doves that welcome each new day with their gentle cooing. Gazing into the hills you can see sparse areas of green vegetation as we do get rain from time to time that manages to keep things green. Unfortunately, we also have periods of humidity with the warm temperatures that can make things uncomfortable. As the sun grows higher in the sky and the temperatures begin to climb we can see different wildlife such as lizards that can range from several inches to several feet. They lumber along slowly under the hot sun and really don't seem to even notice you as you pass by. Several weeks ago we had one of these creatures trying to get under a conex storage area next to our building. We think it was looking at a couple of wild kittens that often hide under the conex as being its main course for lunch. Fortunately, the kittens were faster and escaped to see another day.

This August when I returned to Bagram for the first time since first arriving in-country, I felt like I had come from a quiet New England village to the hustle and bustle of a large city as Boston or New York. There were people everywhere and the noise was constant. I was not used to paved streets or cars and having to look both ways before crossing a street within a cross-walk. There were street lights at night and the constant sound of aircraft either landing or taking off. For the first time in months I had

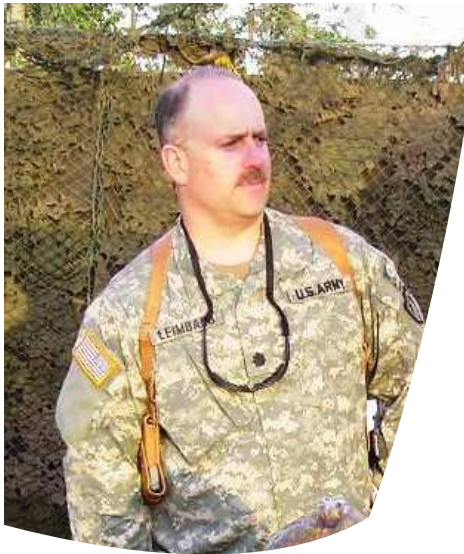


1LT Davis, SGT Cyr, and LTC Duehring relax on the swing at "peaceful" Salerno

returned to an area that there seemed like no place to be alone with your thoughts and have the opportunity to experience life as we have come to know in Salerno. While excited to be seeing the remainder of our soldiers from the 240th, many of whom I had not seen since leaving Camp Atterbury, I looked forward to returning to the rural setting of Salerno.

*Article submitted by LTC David M. Duehring
TAC OIC*





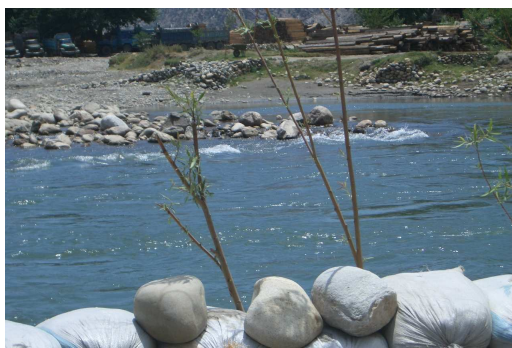
LTC Leimbach is the OIC of the Construction Management Section

The halfway point is an important milestone for us all. Hopefully, this summarizes some of the CTF Chamberlain CMS Team "Story" for the folks at home.

Multifaceted Construction Missions Continue

We continue to support troop construction projects throughout the Combined Joint Operating Area (CJOA). Projects range from simple concrete pads to fully functional buildings, facilities, camps and Forward Operating bases, roads and bridges.

This picture depicts a bridge site that was reconnoitered by SSG Romano, SSG Gleason, 1LT Cheever & LTC Leimbach in June.



Site of the Pech River Bridge construction

This recon resulted in the initial bridge elevation & centerline, and allowed 1LT Cheever to complete the cost and construction estimate for materials and labor needed to build it.

The bridge was completed on 8 September by TF 27 in partnership with an Afghan National Army Engineer unit and is the longest Bailey Bridge to be constructed in a combat zone since World War II. These pictures depict the com-

Construction Management Section Halfway Home Report

pleted project. SPC McGee helped begin the design stage by drawing the entire bridge detail using three dimensional computer assisted design tools. SSG Polky and SSG Romano then had the crucially important mission of ensuring that all of the necessary bridge parts were transported to the staging area. They were formally recognized for executing this mission safely. Specialists Damren and Marcotte were also gunners for these convoys, which traversed eastern Afghanistan.



Pech River Bridge after completion



Coalition Projects

Recently, many large scale coalition projects were completed, and the picture below is reflective of the type of work our Polish and Korean Engineer units have accomplished.



The construction missions at Bagram fully engage MAJ Scott as the chief estimator, designer and engineer and SFC Walker as the Coalition Liaison NCO and Coalition Construction Project Manager. Our Technical Engineer section provides drafting and quality control to ensure

concrete and other materials meet specifications. Staff Sergeants Polky and Gleason supervise SPCs McKenney, McGee and Marcotte in this function. SSG Romano and SPC Hopkins assist the Coalition Soldiers by coordinating all of the details and providing construction expertise. MSG Smith ensures that all of the pieces are synchronized to ensure all of the construction management support occurs where and when it's needed.

The latest happenings involving the section include the arrival of the 8th rotation Koreans, new design projects for a FOB south of Bagram Air Base, and an uprising of unusual weather. The 8th rotation of Koreans arrived here on Bagram eager to get working on their upcoming projects. They have three major projects that start the 25th of September that'll leave a lasting footprint here on Bagram Air Field.

Recently, we had the pleasure of having dinner with the new Korean CMS section at the Korean dining facility. The dinner was excellent for building relationships and getting to know our partners.

Our design team recently finished the designs for new buildings that will be built at a Forward Operating Base south of Bagram Air Field. The new buildings will provide better living conditions for soldiers, and will expand their working space. The pace of this effort was rather nutty to take advantage of end of year funds.

Recently, we experienced some unusual weather. It started with a little rain, then graduated to an all-out down pour. Then those rain drops formed into marble sized hail. It was quite a sight to see as you watched all the hail bounce off the ground. MSG Smith recalls he had to put ear plugs in because the noise from our k-span office was too loud.

Now that we're at the half-way point, most of the Section has had a chance to return home for leave. We are all looking forward to the day when we all fly home - Mission Accomplished.

*Article written by LTC Greg Leimbach
Construction Management Officer*



S-1 Section News



MAJ Lajoie, the S-1 OIC laughs as she is photographed atop a local camel.

The S-1 continues to provide personnel support to CTF Chamberlain which includes 2 active duty battalions with attached Reserve and National Guard units, a Korean engineer unit, a Polish engineer unit, an Air Force Red Horse unit, several Navy Explosive Ordnance (EOD) and Electronic Warfare officers (EWO), a Mine Action Center (MAC), as well as HHC 240th Engineer Group.

Since our mobilization, we have successfully processed 259 awards, over 100 certificates, 23 promotions, 15 re-enlistments, emergency leave for 65 Soldiers, R&R leave for 615 Soldiers, R&R pass for 45 Soldiers, 20 redeployments, over 30 financial pay inquiries, casualty reports for 33 injured Soldiers, daily accountability reports, and several officer and NCO evaluations. We have also planned and conducted several award ceremonies for both US and foreign forces, special days of remembrance, and significant events such as ribbon cutting ceremonies for coalition projects completed on Bagram.

The S-1 section has processed over half the brigade for R&R leave and passes with out delay, helped recognize the individual Soldiers and their accomplishments through awards and award ceremonies, documented the accomplishments through reports and photos. We are just beginning to focus on evaluations and tour awards. The S-1 is also tracking the voting process and the CFC Campaign. Don't forget to vote!

Missions staffed by S-1 Personnel

SPC Bouffard, recently had the opportunity to participate in a Special Forces Medical Cooperative Assistance mission traveling to a couple of villages with Special Forces to provide medical aid to the people of the villages. SPC Bouffard searched the women and children prior to them seeing the US and Afghan

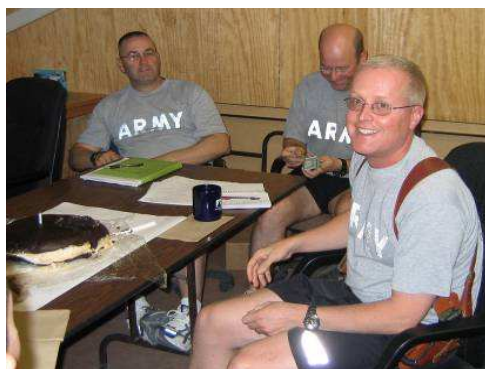
health professionals as well as provided comfort to the patients during their visit. During the week-long mission the team provided medical attention to over 1800 Afghanistan citizens.

SPC Legere supported HHC in a battlefield circulation convoy to 5 different Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and SFC Donlon supported a convoy to Molla for the opening of the new girls school and distribution of the clothing and school supplies sent from the United States. SPC Bouffard and MAJ Lajoie also visited the 37th Engineer Battalion at FOB Sharana, our future home.

Birthday Parties



SPC Bouffard's Birthday



MAJ Darveau celebrates another birthday on 10 SEP by sharing his whoopee pie.

240th Reenlistments



SSG Matthew Mikesell from S-2 reenlists.



SSG Matthew Rogers from S-3 reenlists.

Promotions



LTC Morton congratulates 1LT Morin on his promotion.

Awards



LTC Holbrook presents SGT Judkins with a certificate and coin for setting a record time of 30 minutes from a standard of 3 hours to remove and install M1114 HUMVEE mending plate brackets which secures body armor to the body of the vehicle. SSG Judkins accomplishments are significantly improving maintenance operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Article was written by MAJ Maureen Lajoie the S-1 OIC and is continued on Page 8

Religious Support Team



Chaplain Andy Gibson (LTC) makes comments at the dedication of the Kelly/Veverka MWR Building

"For, a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night." Psalm 90:4.

When Albert Einstein was asked to explain his theory of relativity, he responded: "If a young man is seated by a beautiful young

lady for two hours, it would seem to him to be only a few moments. If that same young man were seated on a hot stove for only a few moments, it would seem like hours. That's relativity." When we experience difficult times or times of sadness, times like when we are so far from our loved ones, it can seem a very long time. When we are happy, such as when our soldiers come home on leave, it seems to go right by. This is normal! But it is important to remember, that with God, time is but a moment. If we fill our time with other things that make us happy, time can go by so much faster. If you get together with other Guard Family members, if you spend time at your place of worship or in sports or with your kids, this time will go by and before you know it, we'll be home. Oh, and by the way, the end of September is the end of our sixth month in Afghanistan. I don't know about where you live, but in Maine, that's half way through the year! We've all made it thus far and before long we will be in the home stretch. Hang in there; get involved. Remember, a thousand years is but a day for the Lord!



SGT Grace passes shoes to a Red Crescent worker

September was an active month for the Religious Support Team (CH Andy Gibson and SGT Nathaniel Grace). We provided four services for the 240th, four bibles studies, and five movie nights. CH Gibson made a trip "down range" to see some of our troops who are stationed there as well as providing support to one of our subordinate chaplains. SGT Grace just got back from a trip where he distributed several hundred shoes, donated by several organizations and individuals in Maine, as well as other Humanitarian Assistance items. On September 11th, there was a base-wide memorial ceremony and the day was capped off with a religious memorial service where CH Gibson was one of the main speakers. Some how, in all this activity, SGT Grace also got a chance to take a four day pass; very well earned, in deed.

Article written by CH (LTC) Gibson



S-1 News Continued



CPT Crockett balances himself with his crutches while leaning in to kiss up to CSM Luce to thank him for presenting him with a Chamberlain coin.

SPC Casper, SSG Romano, and SSG Polky received Army Achievement Medals (AAMs) for recognition of their excellent execution of challenging convoys that assisted in delivering Bailey Bridge parts to the Pesh River Valley.

We would like to extend a thank-you to all of you who are sending care packages for the soldiers of CTF Chamberlain. They are greatly appreciated.

Special mention is in order for the contributions of Pierce Atwood, and the Portland Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Several boxes have been received from these very kind Mainers.

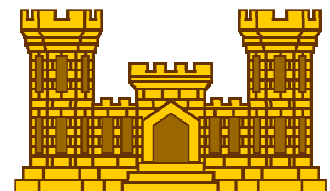
Thanks also go out to Nancy Gibson, the Elks Club, and several other individuals and businesses from Maine who pooled their efforts and come up with over 900 pairs of shoes that are currently being distributed throughout Afghanistan.

Christmas packages for soldiers will need to be sent no later than Dec 4 in order to arrive in Bagram by Dec 25, and Nov 27 if shipping "Space Available".

Further pictures can be found at the 240th Engineer Group's website:
http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/Family/Family_Pages/240th/default.htm

The mailing address for letters and packages is:

Soldier' Name (without rank)
240th Engneer Group
APO AE 09354



**Bayonet!
Forward!**

